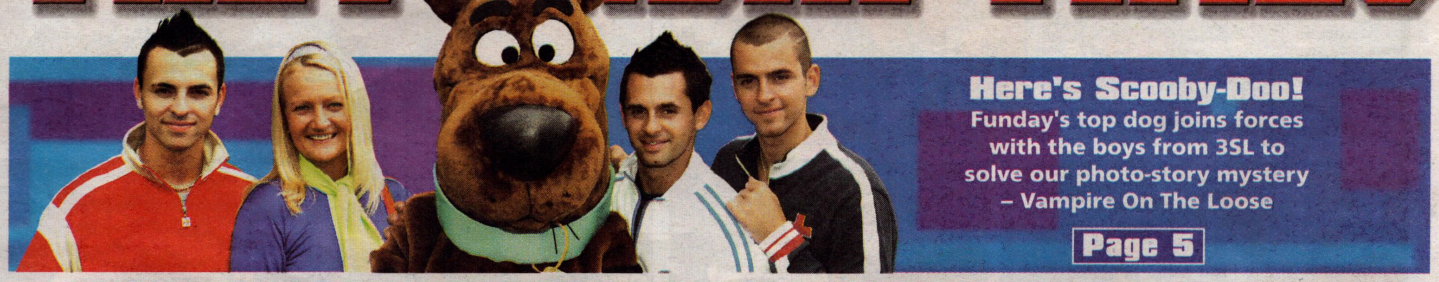
No 670 July 14, 2002

THE FUNDAY TIMES



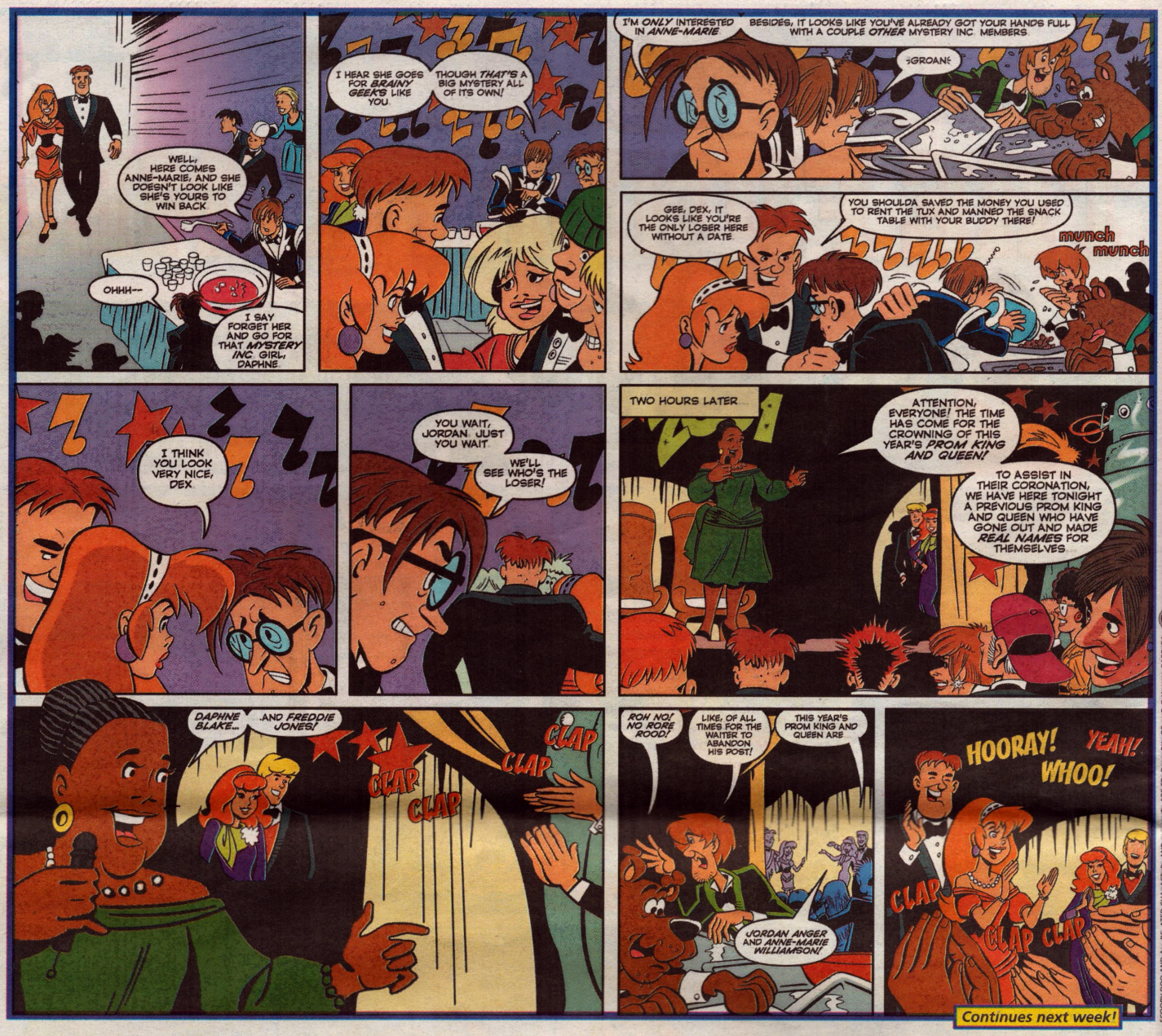
Here's Scooby-Doo!
Funday's top dog joins forces with the boys from 3SL to solve our photo-story mystery – Vampire On The Loose

Page 5

SCOOBY-DOO! in PROM FRIGHT

The story so far – Daphne and Fred are celebrity guests at their old school's prom, but one student is planning a surprise!

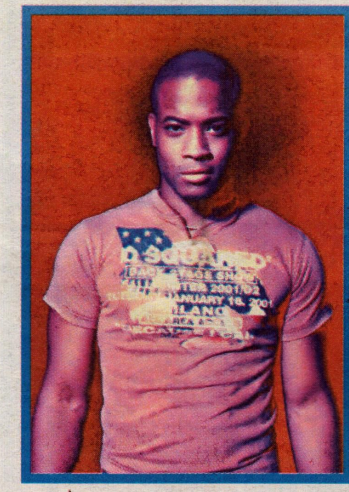
More inside



Continues next week!

SUMMER SUNSHINE

Shaun Escoffery talks to Funday about his new single, forthcoming album and jogging!



Hi Shaun, your single is called Days Like This. Tell us a bit about it...

It's a feel-good song about enjoying life, the sunshine, hanging around with your mates. It has a real summer vibe to it, not that we get sun in England. The weather here is disgusting.

How do you go about writing a song?

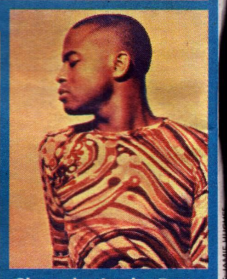
I don't play any instruments, so I'll sit down with a mate who plays guitar and work out a tune. I often get an idea for a song when I'm jogging. I do my best thinking when I run. I might see an advert on the side of a bus and get an idea for a lyric. Then I'll jog home and write it down.

You've also got an album, Into The Blue, coming out soon. What can we expect?

A real mixture of sounds. People might think I'm a geezer from East London who makes R&B records, but there are lots of other flavours and beats to the album.

Your cousin, Michelle, wrote Liberty X's number one hit, Just A Little. Are you proud of her?

I am. She's a fantastic songwriter and that was such a great pop tune. We keep saying we'll get together and write a few songs, but we're both so busy. I hope my single does as well as that Liberty X track, that's for sure!



Shaun's single, Days Like This, is out now on Oyster Records

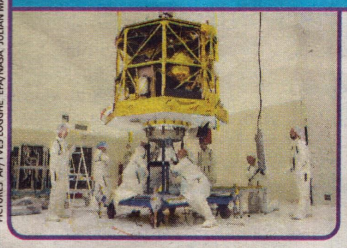
When will the prom night turn into a prom fright?

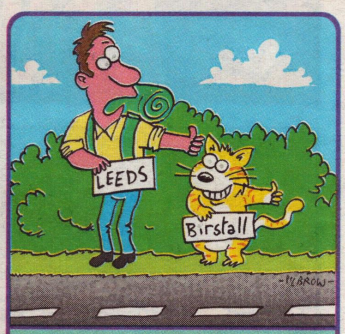
FUNDAY

NEWS

Comet encounter

A comet-chasing spacecraft blasted off [right] from the Kennedy Space Centre, Florida, last week. The Nasa probe, named Contour [below], will fly within 100km of two comets – Encke and Schwassmann-Wachmann 3 – during its four-year mission, taking photos and studying chemicals within the comets themselves. Scientists say that the results could provide valuable clues to understanding the universe. "These very old remnants of the solar system are extremely important to understanding where the solar system comes from," explains Andrew Coates, of the Mullard Space Science Laboratory, London. In January, an even more ambitious mission will have lift-off – the spacecraft Rosetta will launch with the aim of actually landing on the surface of a comet!



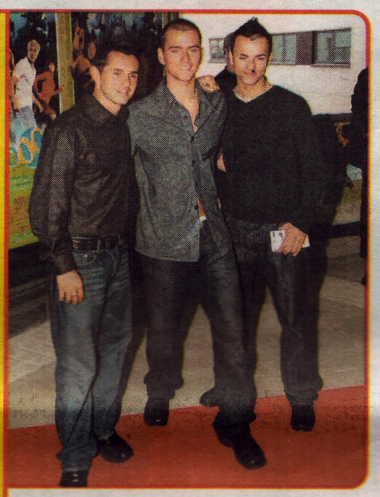


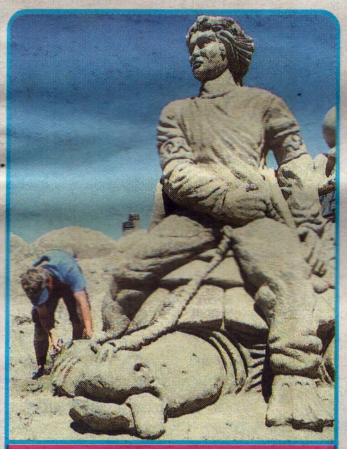
Kane's able

When homesick pet Kane the cat decided he'd had enough of his owners' new home, he decided to make the trek back to his old house – 40km away! The 10-year-old ginger tom took all of his nine lives into his paws when he crossed trunk roads and even the M1 motorway during his journey from Barnsley back to Birstall, near Leeds. Yet when he finally arrived back at his old address, he found that the new owners had taped up the catflap. However, rather than make the journey back straight away, he decided to simply move in with the neighbours. It wasn't until three months after his disappearance that Kane was finally spotted, and the adventurous moggy was returned to his relieved owner – this time by car!

Scooby's big night!

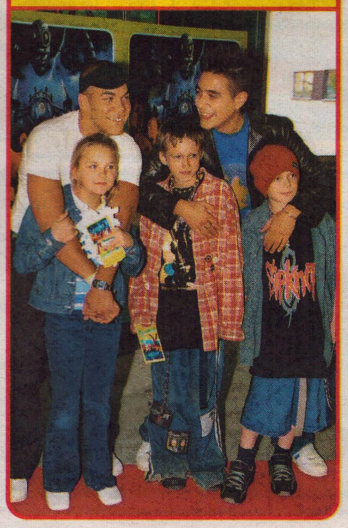
The film version of Scooby-Doo opened in London last week – and everyone's favourite canine crime-fighter attracted a wealth of celebrities to see his big-screen debut. Funday's own comic-strip heroes 3SL [right] arrived in the Mystery Machine at the star-studded premiere, closely followed by Liberty X, Noel and Danny from Hear'Say, Claire Richards, allSTARS, Matthew Marsden and Isla Fisher. It looks like Scooby-Doo and the gang's adventure on Spooky Island will be a hit in Walford too – EastEnders cast members at the glittering opening night included Jessie Wallace [Cat], Gary Beadle [Paul], Judi Shekoni [Precious], Charlie Brooks [Janine] and Dean Gaffney [Robbie].





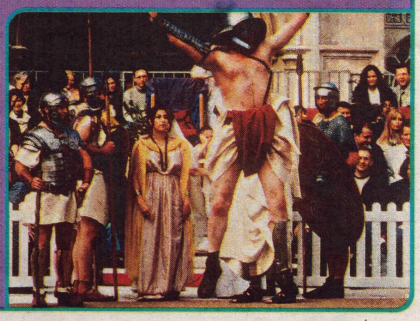
Sandy man

This giant figure is one of the main attractions at this summer's Sand Sculpture Festival in Zeebrugge, Belgium. Around 75 sand artists from all over the world are building an enormous sand sculpture to celebrate this year's theme, The Mystery of Atlantis. The finished sculpture will be 80m long and 60m wide. Incredibly, the highest point is a sand-sational 14m peak – that's more than four storeys of sand! The artists use a variety of different tools, from cranes, shovels and scoops, down to straws and paint-brushes. For more information on the festival, click on www.zandsculptuur.com



Maximus fun

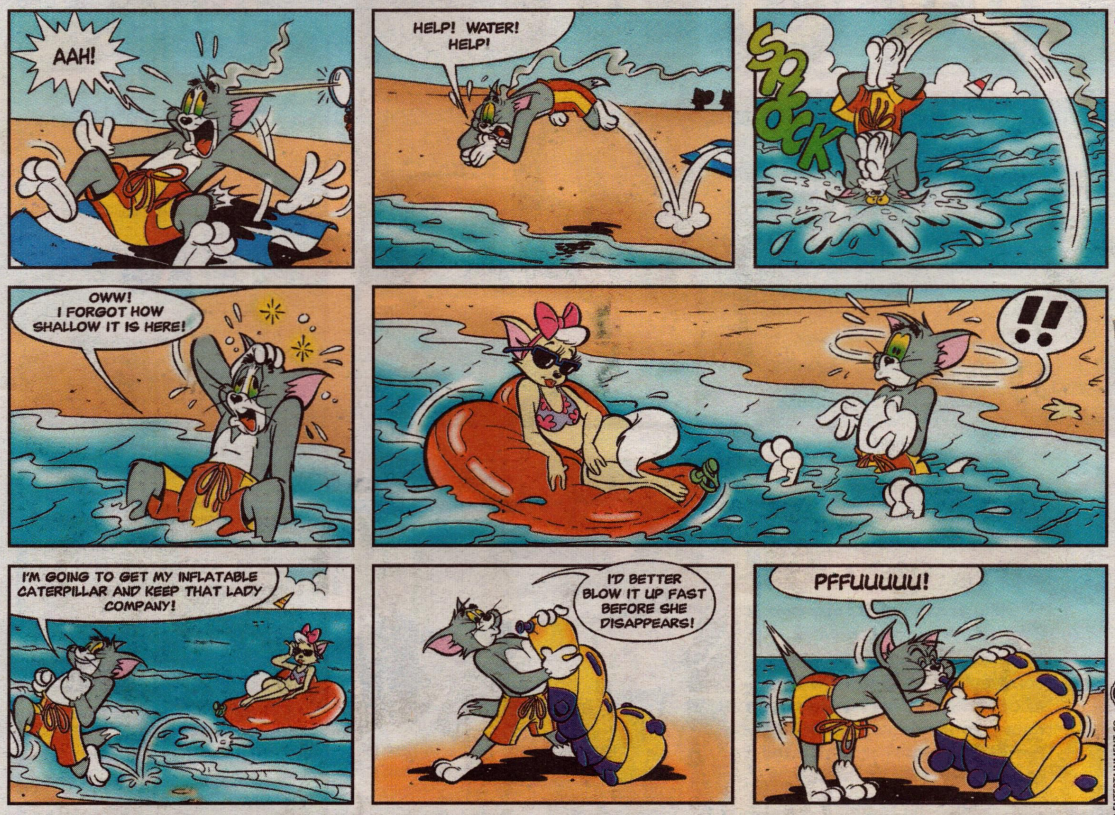
Next Saturday and Sunday, modern-day gladiators will step into London's very own Roman arena for the first time in 2,000 years. First discovered in 1988, the long-lost amphitheatre in the City of London was immediately hailed as one of the most important British finds of the century. Yet its location very nearly remained a mystery forever, as archaeologists only stumbled across it by chance! "People had been searching for the amphitheatre for hundreds of years – and suddenly I was standing in it. The most amazing thing was that no one had realised it was there before. After all, how can you lose a building the size of a football pitch?" says Museum of London archaeologist Nick Bateman. Visitors will now be able to experience, first-hand, the atmosphere of a Roman contest, when re-enactors stage live battles on the site of the arena. To book a seat at the Combat of the Gladiators, call the Museum of London booking line on 020 7814 5777.

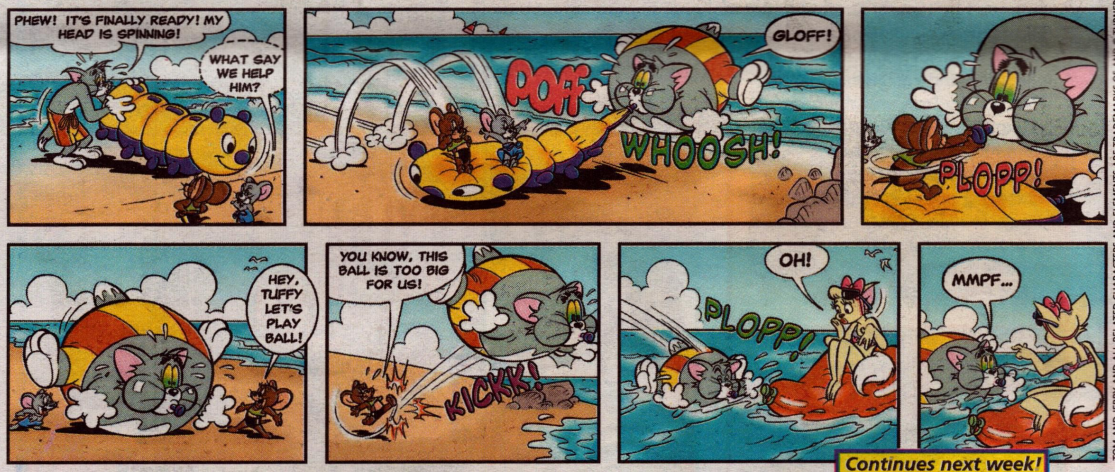


PICTURES: AP/YVES LOGGHE, EPA/NASA, JULIAN MAKEY/REX FEATURES, ©MUSEUM OF LONDON, GETTY IMAGES/NASA

TOM AND JERRY — A DAY AT THE BEACH

The story so far – Tom didn't plan a day like this. His seaside fun has been shattered ... by fun-loving Jerry of course!

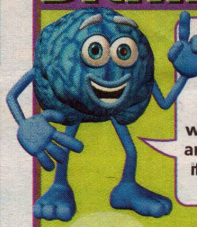




Continues next week!

TOM AND JERRY AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © TURNER ENTERTAINMENT CO. (S02)

BRAINBO



I'm Brain the Fu boffin! S a puzzli question want to kno answer to a if my friend I can answ

How do you register a wo record?

Josh Bellamy, 10, Cardiff

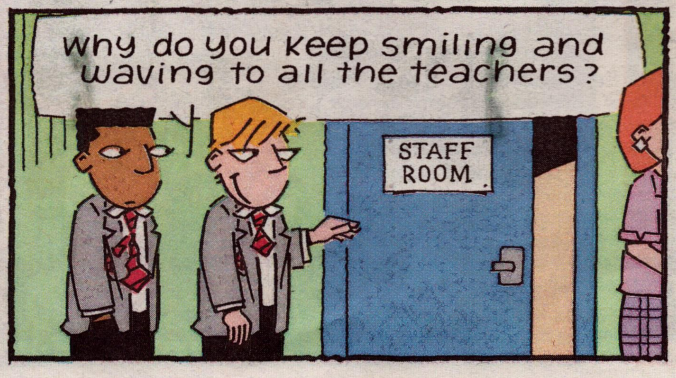
Before attempting a recor contact Guinness World Records. Researchers will evaluate your suggestion confirm that would be a va record catego There are guidelines for records to ens that potential record breaker make their atte according to the same conditions that applied to previous challengers. Whe contact Guinness World Records, they will let you the current record and any guidelines you must follow evidence you need to subm break or set the record. Everyone who breaks a re receives a certificate confi their achievement. The be way to ask about a record through the "break a reco section of the website: www.guinnessworldrecord or write to: Guinness World Records, 338 Euston Road, London NW1 3BD.

20 GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS 03

Answer by Stewart New Keeper of the Records at Guinness World Records The 2003 edition of Guin World Records [£18] wil out on September 28, 2

If you have a question Brainbox, write to: Brain The Funday Times, PO B 495, London E98 1ST or e brainbox@sunday-times.c

Jarvis



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VAMPIRE ON THE LOOSE!

3SL star in our exclusive Scooby-Doo mystery at Chessington World of Adventures

3SL are having a fun day out at Chessington World of Adventures ...

I wanna go on all the rides, I wanna see all the animals

Okay, okay Take it easy!

Hey guys, look who's here

Hey Scooby, it's 3SL! They're so CUTE!

Wow, look at Daphne. She's a mega babe!

There have been reports of a vampire on the loose!

RAMPIRE!!

That could be dangerous

Rreat!

Hey, we could help you out, Daphne

STOP – no dogs allowed!

But it's Scooby-Doo – he's a top detective!

No pop stars allowed then!

But they're helping me. Please ...

Where to first?

Let's head for Tomb Blaster. Daphne, you are gonna love this ...

Right – let's go for it!

Sorry guys – we're on the trail of a vampire and this is too scary for Scooby!

The gang think they have found their Vampire ...

Well it looks like that's our mystery solved

Doh – the Vampire is a ride

Looks WAY cool to me!

But as the gang head for the Vampire ...

HELP! My diamond ring – it's been s-s-snatched!

Did you get a good look at the snatcher?

Yes. H-h-he looked like a vampire!

Which way did he go?

He went that way – towards Toytown!

This way, Ant – we've got a crime to solve!

Quick guys – there's not a moment to lose!

Wow – a real-life Scooby mystery!

Will 3SL and Scooby catch The Vampire Ring Snatcher?

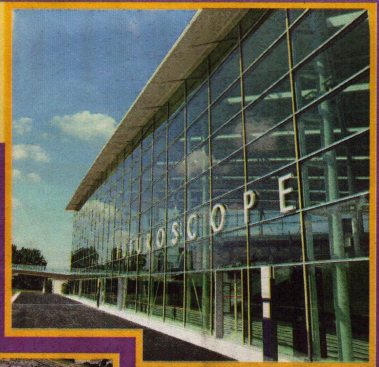
Find out next week in The Funday Times!

PICTURES: JAMIE HUGHES

Look out for part two of Vampire On The Loose next week!

STEP INTO THE FUTURE

Dave Coombs discovers why three million people each year visit Planète Futuroscope, in France, to experience the magic of 3-D cinema, virtual reality simulator rides and the latest in communications technology



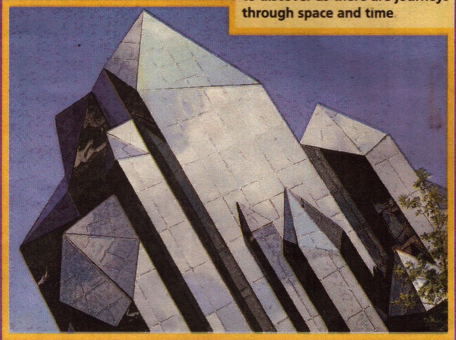
1 Planete Futuroscope is a high-tech theme park near Poitiers, in the Vienne region of France. But if theme parks only conjure up thoughts of rollercoasters and high-speed thrill rides for you, prepare for something quite different.

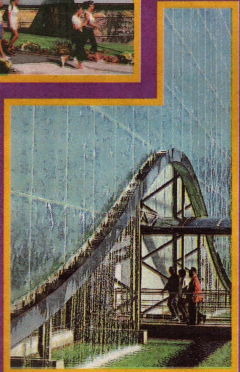
2 Since it opened in 1987, more than 25m people have visited the 60-hectare park in order to experience the incredible "journeys" on offer. That's because each of the cinema-based attractions at Planète Futuroscope takes visitors on adventures across France, Europe, the world, and even the universe.

3 The park's eye-catching architecture sets the scene for the imaginative journeys contained within each attraction. Glinting crystals, giant spheres, mirrored walls, dancing fountains and carefully tended gardens create a futuristic environment that makes you feel as though you've left 21st century Europe as soon as you step through the gates.

4 The imaginative park design means that every cinema building provides a fresh chance to take a great photograph. The techno-landscape really does make your snaps look like you went somewhere out-of-this world on your visit!

5 If you don't like sci-fi, don't let the space-age look of the park and its buildings put you off. There are as many films about nature, travel and history to discover as there are journeys through space and time.



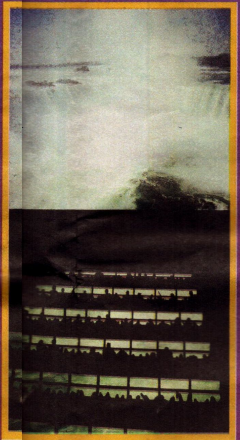


6 Futuroscope has become a French institution, attracting families and school groups from all over the country. In 2000, the park confirmed its place in the French culture with the opening of its own high-speed train station and by hosting the start of the 87th Tour de France.

7 The park's creators say that Planète Futuroscope takes you on a voyage through imagination, emotion, feeling and discovery. This might sound a bit crazy but begins to make sense once you see what's inside the attractions.

8 First up, get your bearings in La Vienne Dynamique. This lively, and slightly rough, simulator whisks you through the towns and countryside that surround Planète Futuroscope. Swooping and soaring camera-work make this one to avoid if you suffer from motion sickness!

9 Le Tapis Magique [Magic Carpet Ride], is an IMAX cinema that shows a film charting the incredible annual migration of the monarch butterfly – thousands of miles from Canada to Mexico.

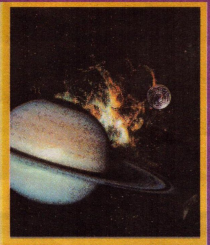


10 The images appear before the audience on a soaring IMAX screen – but to give everyone a butterfly's-eye view, there's a surprise in store. The auditorium is actually built on a glass floor and is suspended over another full-size IMAX screen. Once both projectors roll, you feel as though you're flying high over the countryside below and joining the monarch butterfly on its epic journey!

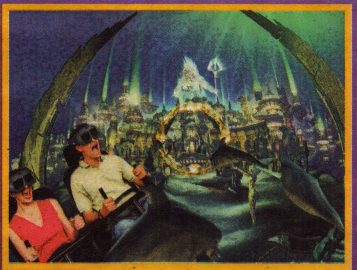
11 Sur les traces du Panda [On the Trail of the Panda] is another journey across the world – this time to 1930s China, and an expedition to discover the giant panda. The journey includes incredible views of the beautiful Chinese landscapes, and some amazing footage of baby giant pandas playing with people.

12 IMAX screens are great for helping you immerse yourself completely in the film you're watching – and Plongeurs sans Limite [Divers without Limits] makes you feel like you need to hold your breath! That's because it follows the lives of the free divers, who don't use air tanks or equipment to explore the ocean depths, but learn to hold their breath for outstanding lengths of time.

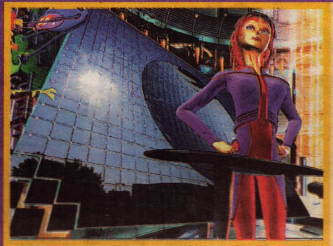
13 After these amazing "journeys" around the world, grab your space helmet because Planète Futuroscope's latest attraction, Destination Cosmos, whisks you right across the universe! Using real photography of our galaxy from satellites and space probes, Destination Cosmos gives an incredible visual journey throughout the stars, planets and superclusters that surround Earth.



14 Some of Planète Futuroscope's films, like the awesome T-Rex, use 3-D projections to bring the action vividly to life. This time-walk through 65m years of history shows how the mighty dinosaurs lived, and how they probably died.



15 Computer technology not only provides the bulk of special effects in modern film-making, it also allows places that no longer exist to be re-created on a grand scale. Le Délfi d'Atlantis is a high-speed journey through the mythical city of Atlantis – complete with lightning-fast dives and cool sub-aqua effects.



16 For a leap into total imagination, CyberWorld creates a computer-generated vision of the future that also showcases the latest digital imaging techniques. CyberWorld amazes with its 3-D visuals and incredibly detailed large-scale environments.

17 Le Miroir d'Uranie laser, fountain and pyrotechnic show provides a spectacular end to a day at the park. The breathtaking presentation is staged on a 6,000m² lake, using 124 pumps and 400 submerged projectors to present its fairy tale story.

18 Although it's hard to follow the exact plot [unlike other attractions, Le Miroir d'Uranie is presented in French only], the ghostly projected images, dancing fountains, laser shapes and billowing fireballs provide a mesmerising tale and a spectacular finale.

For more info about Planète Futuroscope, click on www.discoverfuturoscope.com or www.planete-futuroscope.com

Transport to Planète Futuroscope, via Eurostar Plus, provided by Rail Europe – 08705 848 848 and www.raileurope.co.uk

THE FUNDAY TIMES

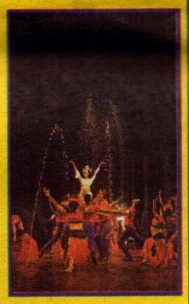
PICTURES: AL VARNET/FANE, DR (FUTUROSCOPE, IMAX/CINEMASCOPE, L.I. AUDIO/GAUTIER AND FUTUROSCOPE, CYBERWORLD, AL VARNET, LEFEBVRE, MOVIE PICTURES)

www.letour.fr

The 89th Tour de France has entered its second week and the official site will keep you up to speed on who's heading the pack in the toughest sporting event around. Click on the English version for live weather and stage reports, rider and team profiles, plus the latest results. The stage profile graphics are pretty cool too.

www.bombaydreamsthemusical.co.uk

It's going to be an Indian summer thanks to the spectacular new Bollywood-inspired musical – Bombay Dreams. Get all the cast and story details of the show here. The added extras are great with ringtones and songs from the show available, and cool wallpaper of each of the main cast members. Shakalaka baby!



PICTURE: AP/CHRISTOPHE ENA, PA/YUI MOK

If you are a webhead and have discovered a great site, or have created one of your own, spin me a mail and tell me all about it on webby@sunday-times.co.uk

FRESH!

GT ADVANCE 2: RALLY RACING ★★★★★

Can you take on the most extreme stages on the rallying scene? If you think it's easy think again! With GT Advance 2, you're in for a tough test of your motoring mind and race reflexes. With tyre options, car settings, numerous stages and fierce fellow competitors, this is a GTI of a racing game that is both challenging and addictive. The graphics are pretty special too. The best racer to come out on the GBA for a long time.

GAME BOY ADVANCE

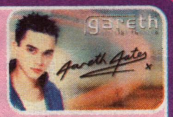
THE EARTH FROM THE AIR FOR CHILDREN

Yann Arthus-Bertrand ★★★★★

If you haven't been able to visit The Earth from the Air exhibition at the Natural History Museum, this breath-taking book [£9.95] gives you a taste of photographer's Yann Arthus-Bertrand amazing aerial shots. The 34 pictures are sensational and include a lone penguin on an iceberg in Antarctica, a volcano erupting in La Reunion and a multi-coloured hot spring in Yellowstone National Park. A remarkable book.

BOOK

GARETH GATES OFFICIAL FAN CLUB ★★★★★



Fan clubs can be a bit of a hit-or-miss affair – because you never know what you are going to get. The silky-voiced Pop Idol's new fan club costs £9.99. For that you get: a membership card, an exclusive CD-Rom featuring a video message, exclusive photos, behind-the-scenes footage and an exclusive screensaver; a photo of Gareth and access to his fanclub website at www.garethofficialfanclub.com. Whether you consider this to be value for money depends on how big a Gareth fan you are.

FAN CLUB

What do you think of fan clubs? Let us know at: funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk

FUNDAY BUZZ!

JUST A LITTLE

Steve Gidlow talks to the human stars of Stuart Little 2 – the sequel to the original smash-hit mouse flick

Stuart Little

Little guy

After having so much fun in the first Stuart Little, 10-year-old Jonathan Lipnicki couldn't wait to step into George Little's goody two-shoes again. Two years after the first movie, we find George with a much bigger Little family. Along with his ever-watchful parents [played by Geena Davis and Hugh Laurie] and Snowball the cat, we find mini-mouse Stuart has been adopted into the family and there's a new baby sister, Martha.

"I liked this film a lot," says Jonathan, who's now notched up 10 movie appearances. "It's better than the first one and it's so different. In the first film, Stuart is the perfect guy and I am a bit jealous. In this one I have new friends so I have to try to ignore him." But Stuart is computer generated – how do you ignore a co-star that is not really there anyway? "Ignoring something that isn't there is weird," laughs Jonathan. "You have to pretend something is there and then ignore it. For the first movie they explained that Stuart would be put in later so they usually had something for me to react to like a model to look at, so doing this one was a bit easier."

Jonathan [as George] with Stuart

According to Jonathan, he loved the family feeling on the set. "Geena and Hugh make great parents," he says. And while he's a sporty adventurous guy, he draws the line at the scene where his movie mom [and real-life archer] Geena Davis shoots an apple off his head with an arrow. "No way!" he screams, when asked if he'll let Geena attempt the stunt in real life. "Unless I had full armour and a huge helmet, then I might try it."

Meet the parents

Here's Hugh Laurie, the ever perfect dad, Mr Little

Hi Hugh, is doing a Stuart Little movie like coming back to a family?

Yeah, the first one was a great time and because everyone came back it was really comfortable.

Little family [from left]: Martha, Mr Little, George, Stuart, Snowbell and Mrs Little

Is it hard working with a computer generated character

Not really, in most movies you have to use your imagination, so in a way it's the same – even when it's a 10cm-tall mouse. Stuart doesn't look like a cute cartoon-mouse. He's a really sweet character.

Did you meet Michael J Fox [who provides Stuart's voice]?

We met on the first one. Michael is the perfect Stuart. This time we all went to see Nathan Lane [voice of Snowbell] on Broadway, that was fantastic.

Geena Davis practises archery, did she teach you how to shoot arrows?

She did shoot while we were filming. I asked her if I stood with an apple on my head, would she shoot it off, but she wouldn't do it.

Meet Geena Davis, the ever perky Mrs Little

Hi Geena, how much fun is playing the world's best mom?

Oh, I love that I am the best mom! It was a goal of mine for people to say: "I wish you were my mom."

Is it hard having a loving relationship with a mouse that's not there?

It's more challenging. In the first movie I hadn't seen what Stuart would look like. I was worried if he looked goofy so would I. But when he turned out so real, I was so happy. This one was easier because I knew what he'd look like.

What did you do on the set for fun?

I do egg carvings – I carve figures into eggshells and make things from them. I'm crazy, I know!

Did Hugh [Mr Little] really ask you to shoot an apple off his head with an arrow?

Yes, and he was serious about it. I like that he trusts me so much but I would not have done it. No one should ever do that!

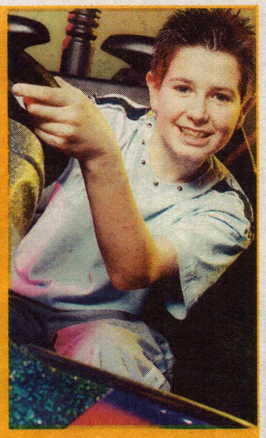
Stuart Little 2 is out on Friday

PICTURES: SONY PICTURES IMAGEWORKS

PICTURES: JAMIE HUGHES

MORE S CLUB CACKLES

S Club Juniors Aaron and Frankie share their favourite jokes



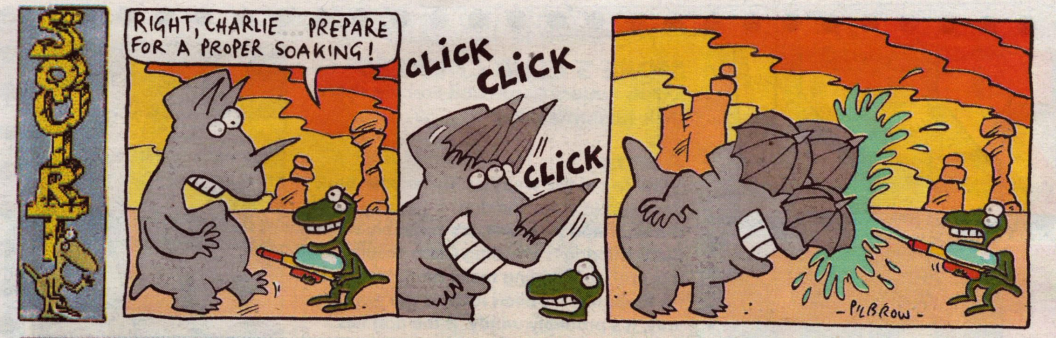
Aaron

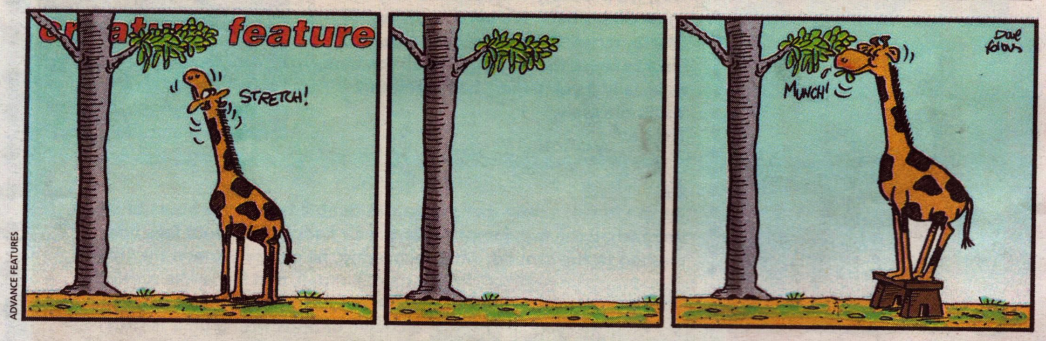
"How to tell the weather: Go to your back door and look for the dog. If the dog is at the door and he is wet, it's probably raining. But if the dog is standing there soaking wet, it is probably raining really hard. If the dog's fur looks like it's been rubbed the wrong way, it's probably windy. If the dog has snow on his back, it's been snowing. Of course, to tell the weather like this, you have to leave the dog outside all the time, especially if you expect bad weather.
Yours sincerely,
The Cat"

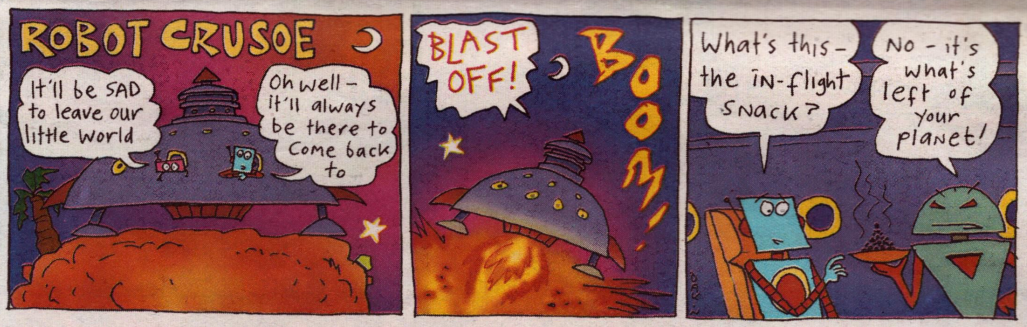
Frankie

"In the forest, a little turtle began to climb a tree. After hours of effort, he reached the top, jumped into the air flapping his front legs and crashed to the ground. After recovering, he slowly climbed the tree again, jumped, and fell to the ground. The turtle tried again and again, while a couple of birds sitting on a branch watched his sad efforts.
Finally, the female bird turned to her husband. 'My dear,' she chirped. 'I think it's time to tell him he's adopted.'"

More cracking gags with the S Club Juniors next week. The band's new single, Automatic High, is released on July 22







NEXT WEEK

Look out for a four-page Scooby-Doo pull-out in next week's issue – packed with all the latest Scooby-Doo news, games, quizzes and hot products

Find out who to watch out for at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester this month

Meet the latest US boyband, Natural

f-mail

Send your letters, cartoons, jokes and drawings to: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX Send your e-mail to: funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk

SIMPSATIONAL

Everybody Do The Bart Man because The Simpsons Season Two DVD Collection [£39.99] is out tomorrow from Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment! The box set features 22 fantastic episodes from the second season of this top series.

Homer, Bart, Lisa and Marge are at their hilarious best in some classic shows like Bart Gets An F, plus the box set features exclusive bonus material too, including early sketches, hidden Easter egg extras, music videos and more!

The writer of the star f-mail will receive a DVD player and the DVD box set. The other f-mailers will receive the DVD box set.

STAR

Dear f-mail,
I've written a poem about my favourite footballer. Can you guess who he is?

You're my favourite footballer and
I really like you,
Even though some people say you can't add
two and two.
You've got a wife who used to be in a girl band,
And a son whose name is a faraway land.
You play for Man United, but you're not
Paul Scholes,
You're not Nicky Butt either – oh, and we've
all seen your toes!

Eleanor Owen, 11, Cheshire

Sarah Delaney, 10, Goatstown, Ireland

FUNDAY

WIN IT!

COMPETITION ADDRESS Send answers to all competitions to us at: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU95 1AY. Competition deadline: July 24

You can e-mail your competition answers to: funday.comps@sunday-times.co.uk
Sorry, but only one e-mail per entrant will be accepted.

GO LOONEY

Log on to www.looneytunes.co.uk, and join Bugs Bunny, Tweety, Taz and a whole host of other favourites, as they bring their own brand of hilarious mayhem to the web.
As well as exclusive cartoons, games, activities, and competitions, you'll also be able to join the crew for a series of special webisodes such as Planet of the Taz and The Matwix! You'll even be able to see Toon Marooned, featuring all the Warner cartoon stars stranded in the jungle, fighting it out – Big Brother-style – for a big-money prize!
To celebrate the site's relaunch, we've teamed up with Warner Bros. Online to give one reader an Apple iBook laptop computer, and a Looney Tunes goody bag [containing a computer game, a mobile phone cover, and a character hanger], courtesy of Infogrames, Blue-I and Riverhead. Plus, five runners-up will each receive a goody bag.

To enter, just tell us the name of the Road Runner's nemesis.

Mark your entry LOONEY TUNES and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address above.

LOONEY TUNES .CO.UK

PET MATES

Launching in the UK in August, the original MicroPets from Tomy are the latest craze from Japan. At only only 3.5cm tall, MicroPets are the teensiest interactive toys in the world!
There are 10 different, collectable characters – from dogs and cats to bears and monsters – each packed with the latest voice-activated intelligence. Train them to become the most obedient pets and they will reward you by running, singing, flashing their eyes or flapping their ears!
MicroPets are available from August in all good toyshops from £9.99. Check out www.micro-pets.co.uk for more information.
You could be one of the first in the UK to get your hands on a MicroPet – before they hit the shops! Tomy has 100 MicroPets to give away to budding pet owners.

To enter, tell us the capital of Japan.

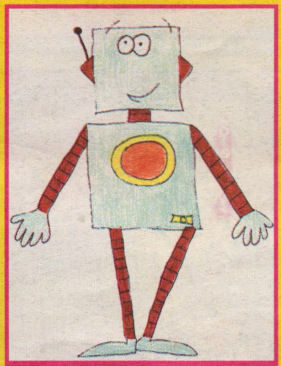
Mark your entry MICROPET and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address above.

TOMY

Normal TNL competition rules apply to all Funday Times competitions

Takunda Maruza, 13, Birmingham

Dear f-mail,
I totally agree with Rumana's letter in issue 667. Glasses do not mean people are brainy, geeky or anything else. Glasses just mean that people are short-sighted, and not geeky.
I too wear glasses, and I am not a geek. So cartoons should stop using glasses to represent brainboxes or goody-goodies – it is insulting for us who wear them. Who else agrees?
Emma Oulton, Cranbrook, Kent



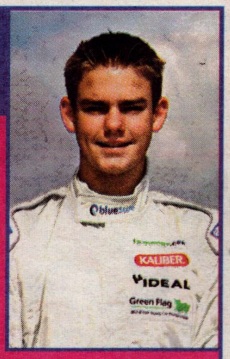
Holly Rogers, Reading

Dear f-mail,
I agree with Rumana Lasker [issue 667]. Whenever I watch cartoons or TV programmes, the "geek" is always wearing glasses and they are always very smart. I wear glasses and my teachers and friends say I am smart – I didn't realise that suddenly made me a geek. I think that it is terrible to go around calling people geeks. After all they're just the same as all the other kids.
Sara Royle, via e-mail

Katherine Bannerman, 11, Dereham

FUNDAY SPORT

TOM CHILTON



At 17, Tom Chilton is the youngest competitor to ever take part in the British Touring Car Championship. The Reigate racer talks to Funday Sport about driving a Vauxhall Astra Coupé for the Barwell team

It's your first season in the British Touring Car Championships – how's it going?
This year has gone reasonably well. It's been a big learning curve but I'm enjoying it. It's everything I expected it to be and more. The highlight has been my third place at Brands Hatch. Getting a podium place was something that I was aiming for, but to get it in my first race was great. It's such a good experience racing with top drivers such as Matt Neal and Yvan Muller.

Is racing cars something you have always wanted to do?
Yeah, definitely. I just love the feeling of sliding, I get an adrenaline buzz. I love it so much. I never started off in karting, which is weird. I basically moved up from T Cars [kit cars] to touring cars.

How did you start racing cars then?
I was aged 10-and-a-half and my dad bought six old Ford Escort Mark IIs. I started racing them with my dad's friends on tracks and in fields. I got the buzz at that age, straight away. At 13, I got my National B motor-racing licence – at the time I was the youngest ever to hold a racing licence. I didn't really care about that, though, I loved the feeling I got going on skid pads and round the circuits.

Did you have any sporting heroes growing up?
Yes, Ayrton Senna and also Michael Schumacher. Ayrton Senna was a very good driver, full stop. That was part of growing up for me, watching the grand prix on the TV with my dad. I did it from a young age and still do it now.

What's the best thing about racing cars?
I love the fact that you are on the edge the whole time – when you feel the four-wheel drive drift and when you are on the limit of braking. All these little bits come together and I love it.

What else do you do, apart from racing?
I'm studying for a National Diploma in motor sport engineering at Brooklands College. So I have my college work, fitness training, my homework and then racing at the weekend. I have training for an hour-and-a-half a day to build my endurance – running, rowing cycling and strengthening for my neck and back, in case of a crash.

Do you have a favourite circuit?
I love all the circuits but if I had to pick any favourites they would be Snetterton and Brands Hatch. Snetterton is one of the fastest circuits in the UK and I love going flat out there, it must be something to do with being young and not being scared. Brands Hatch is my local circuit and I've been racing there for years. I really do love them all – whether it's wet or dry.

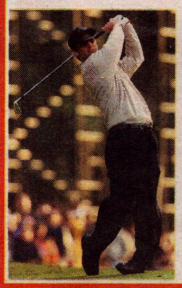
SPORT NEWS

Funday picks out the best of this week's sporting action

Today World Rally Championship, Kenyan Rally

Kenya provides the longest and most gruelling rally of the whole season with nearly 3,000km of tough dirt tracks – and wandering wildlife! Finnish driver Marcus Grönholm leads the championship at the moment. Watch the highlights of the final stages of the rally, today, on Channel 4 at 7.00pm.

Thursday The Open, Muirfield



David Duval [pictured] stole the limelight from fellow American Tiger Woods to win last year's Open Championship at Royal Lytham. Muirfield last hosted the tournament in 1992, when the winner received £95,000 in prize money. In 2002 the winner will collect a cool £700,000! Live coverage on BBC television.

TOUR DE FORCE

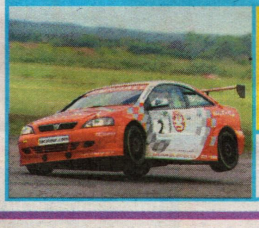
Touring cars are standard cars that have been given high-performance tweaks – making them bigger, louder and, above all, much faster!

The Green Flag 2002 MSA British Touring Car Championship [BTCC] is already at full throttle – producing plenty of breathtaking race action on the track.

We're offering one lucky reader the chance to take their family [two adults, two children] to the Green Flag BTCC race meeting at Snetterton Circuit, on the weekend of July 27-28.

The prize includes overnight accommodation, a VIP lunch on race day, a VIP pit tour and £50 towards travel.

To enter, just tell us which county Snetterton is in.



Mark your entry TOP GEAR and send it, with your name, age, phone number and address, to the competition address on page 11.

Green Flag
motoring assistance
MSA British Touring Car Championship

PICTURES: MALCOLM GRIFFITHS/LAT PHOTOGRAPHIC, AP/SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI/JEAN-PIERRE BELZIT, MEDIASUD

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Check out Tom's website, www.tomchilton.com